

Sports Opinion



David Wilson

## NU recruit Demps plays for Knights

Damian Demps was one English class short of playing football at Nebraska.

A standout athlete at Carol City High School in Miami, Demps was recruited by the Cornhuskers and was told last January that he would likely receive a scholarship. But one report card later, NU coaches realized that Demps was an academic risk.

Saturday, Demps will play against the team he nearly played for.

When it was realized that he would qualify, Demps became a recruited walk on at Nebraska and was told he could possibly earn a scholarship after paying his own way for a year. Demps and his mother, Gloria, filled out all of the paperwork and Demps was ready to attend UNL.

"You have a very pleasant athletic department," Gloria said. "It was really an inspiration talking to them. The financial aid office sent us a packet and I still have that packet as a souvenir."

Then Demps received his true calling — from Central Florida Coach Gene McDowell. The Golden Knights offered him a full scholarship.

Score one for the underdog. At Nebraska, Demps would have been lost in the crowd. A multiple number on the scout team. Not because he doesn't have the talent, but because everyone has the talent.

Instead of redshirting at NU, Demps is a second-string free safety as a freshman at Central Florida — and he loves it. His mom does too.

"I just feel good about Central Florida all together," Gloria said. "Just his moral support as a freshman. The defensive backs are just a group that hangs out together. I can tell they are really his friends. Hopefully, they study together too."

Central Florida will travel to Lincoln and will likely leave with their third loss, but they will prove that they are a program on the rise.

"I think by the time he graduates, they may be able to give you a pretty good game," Gloria said.

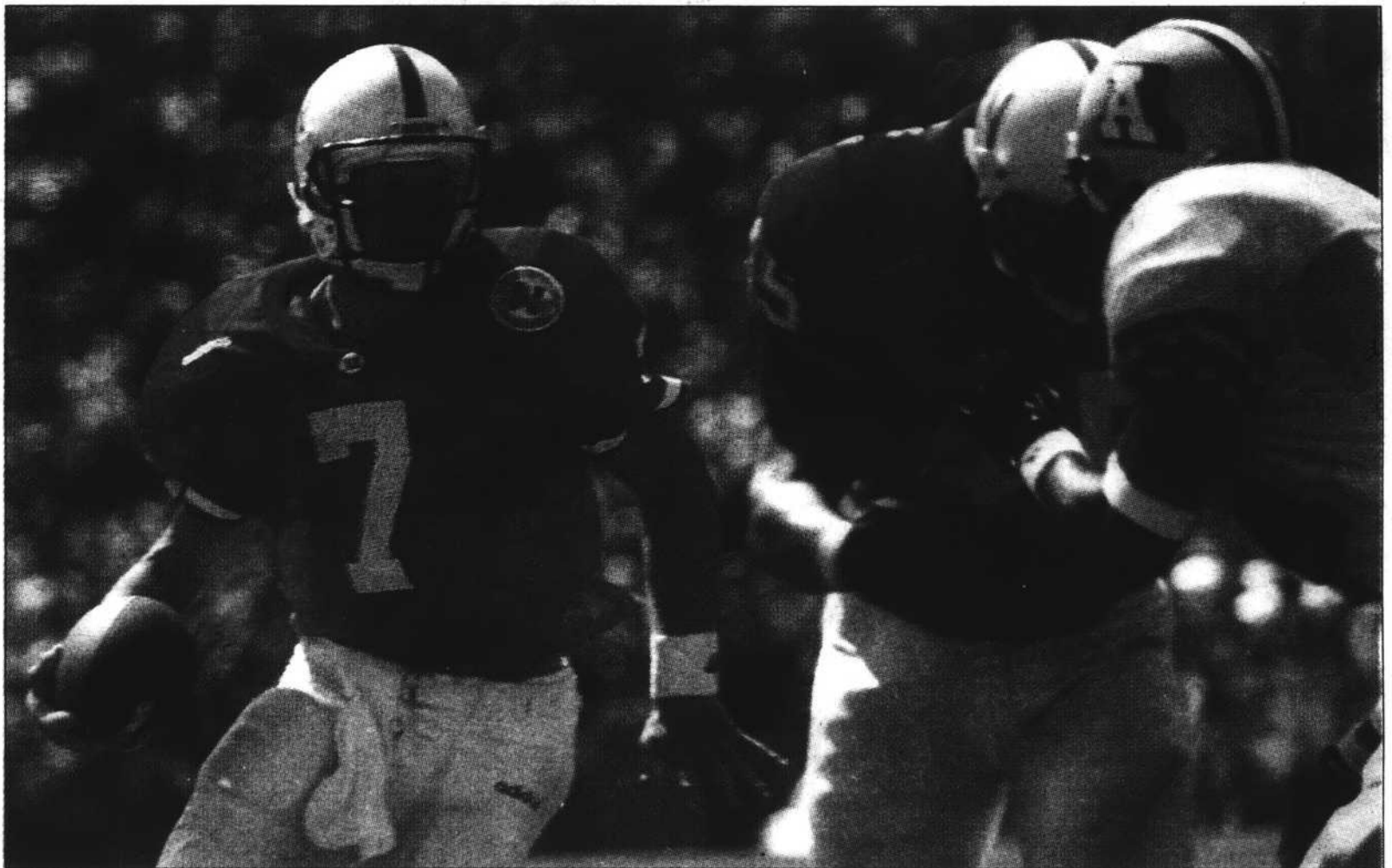
Demps will also travel to Lincoln with something to prove: He's not just another name.

Though he never set foot on a football field at Nebraska, the 5-foot-11, 180-pounder is listed in the Husker media guide and does still receive standard freshman mailings from UNL.

Did any Husker fans wonder who this highly touted athlete was? Probably not.

If Demps has his way, they'll find out Saturday.

Wilson is a junior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.



MATT MILLER/DN

NU QUARTERBACK SCOTT FROST and the rest of the Husker squad will battle Central Florida and its highly touted quarterback Daunte Culpepper this Saturday at Memorial Stadium.

## Culpepper to test NU defense

The Huskers must be offensively prepared to dominate Saturday's game.

BY ANTONE OSEKA  
Senior Reporter

Containing a quarterback like Central Florida's Daunte Culpepper can be an intimidating task.

The 6-foot-4, 235-pound junior is quick, runs a 4.6 40-yard dash and has a knack for finding the end zone with four consecutive three-touchdown games.

Culpepper brings his talents to



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Lincoln when he and his University of Central Florida (0-2) teammates face Nebraska (1-0) Saturday at 12:30 p.m. at Memorial Stadium.

The NU defense will need to improve on its first game performance if it hopes to keep Culpepper at bay. The Huskers failed to record a sack in their 59-14 victory over Akron on Aug. 30.

"Akron did a lot of things to keep us from being able to get sacks," NU senior rush end Grant Wistrom said. "UCF likes to back to a little more drop-back

style, and to get a good pass rush, that helps out a little bit."

Wistrom said the defensive front four have taken it upon themselves to put pressure on Culpepper and keep him from scrambling out of the pocket and hurting Nebraska on the run.

"(Central Florida players) have a lot of quickness, move around well," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said. "They are well coached and very aggressive."

NU senior defensive tackle Jason Peter said he expects the Husker defense to throw nearly everything at Culpepper, especially some blitzes, something they didn't do in the Akron game.

However, Central Florida has a talented defense with a blitz package that was fairly effective in the first two games of the season.

"They seem to be blitzing more this year than they did last year," Osborne said. "and they were very effective at times. They have had quite a few sacks."

The Golden Knights have had three sacks this season for 25 yards loss but they have given up 11 sacks for a loss of 53 yards.

Although winless, the Golden

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## Rivals NU, A&M prepared to meet

BY JAY SAUNDERS  
Assignment Reporter

Most big rivalry games aren't usually played in the third weekend of the season. But a game against Big 12 Conference rival Texas A&M is exactly what the No. 5 Nebraska soccer team faces this weekend.

The Huskers (4-0 overall and 1-0 in the Big 12 Conference) must travel to College Station, Texas, for a conference showdown against the No. 9 Aggies (4-0, 3-0) on Sunday at 1 p.m. Before the A&M game, however, the Huskers will play tonight against Texas (1-2, 1-1) at 5 in Austin, Texas.

Last season, Nebraska's contests against A&M were highlighted by two one-goal differential games, both won by the Huskers.

"A&M for my money is in the top five teams in the country," Nebraska coach John Walker said. "There are no weaknesses."

The game will be a showdown of the conference's top talent.

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MATT MILLER/DN

THE HUSKERS RENEW their rivalry with Texas A&M this weekend. Last time the two teams met, NU striker Lindsay Eddleman (above) scored the game-winning goal in the second overtime.

## Huskers hope to eliminate errors

BY SHANNON HEFFELFINGER  
Assignment Reporter

If Nebraska volleyball coach Terry Pettit had written a script in August predicting the first four weeks of his team's season, the plot would not have included three narrow, five-game victories. But the unexpected twist has not weakened the story.

The Cornhuskers (5-1) softened the sting of a five-game loss to third-ranked Florida on Aug. 31 with two slim victories over eighth-ranked Pacific and No. 24 Arkansas last weekend at the NU Coliseum.

In the process, Pettit said, NU gained valuable experience in critical situations.

"We're a better team because of it," Pettit said. "I can see that the players are carrying themselves a little differently. They came through the weekend with more confidence."

The Huskers enter the Arby's

Classic, their third weekend tournament in as many weeks, with their heads held high. No. 17 Ohio State (5-1), Oral Roberts (1-6) and Tennessee (3-5) visit Lincoln for a two-day stretch of competition that begins Friday at 5 p.m. and concludes Saturday night at 7:30 when NU battles the Buckeyes.

OSU, which suffered its only loss in 1997 to No. 23 Maryland in five games, returns four starters from last year's squad.

Offensively, the Buckeyes rely on Vanessa Wouters, a first-team All-American. Wouters has posted 131 kills in six matches this season.

"Wouters is very physical," Pettit said. "Even if you know where the ball is going, she'll still hit a high percentage and get a lot of kills doing it."

The responsibility of defending Wouters falls on a variety of Huskers. Ten different players have

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